

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

Setting up of an R&R Society as an executing agency to work under the over all control of the State Level R&R Commissioner- Orders-Issued.

IRRIGATION & C.A.D (PW : LA.IV-R&R) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Ms.No. 188

Dated: 19-09-2008.

Read:

G.O.Ms.No.181, I&CAD (PW-L.A.IV-R&R-I) Department, dated 8.9.2008.

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ORDER:

The Resettlement and Rehabilitation of the Projects has acquired monumental proportions during the recent years especially in view of the Jalayagnam programme being taken up within the state. The Government has taken some important decisions relating to this program and these include

- a. Creating a new R&R Commissionerate within Irrigation Department.
- b. Posting of a senior level officer in the rank of a Secretary to head the newly created R&R Commissionerate in the Department of Irrigation.
- c. A separate budget head for R&R activities.
- d. Staffing of the R&R Commissionerate.

2. In order to take this activity forward and considering the nature of R&R activities it is felt that while the state level R&R Commissionerate could be a policy making, regulatory and monitoring body, there is a need to evolve a mechanism to ensure smooth planning and implementation of R&R programs in individual development projects. The Commissioner R&R in his proposal has recommended setting up an R&R Society, as an executing agency which would work under the over all control of the R&R Commissioner.

3. The Commissioner has indicated that resettlement of development induced displaced population is a complex process and needs to be handled carefully to ensure that those displaced (both physically and economically) are helped to restore their livelihood. More often, the involuntary resettlement component of a development project is treated as subordinate to construction process and schedules. While relocating the physically displaced population could be planned and implemented in a time bound program, resettlement and restoration of their livelihood is a long-term process and requires close working with, and continuous support and guidance to the affected communities. With few exceptions, this process often goes beyond the time taken to complete the construction of a development project. This assumes importance since the majority of the project displaced communities come from fragile economic and ecological systems that take a very long time to reconstruct. This essentially requires a conscious commitment of efforts and resources over a long period of time. Therefore, an organization (R&R Society) outside the regular government set-up could work with those affected by development projects on a long-term basis and thus help address R&R issues to their satisfaction, while reducing the burden on the regular government machinery.

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4. Management of R&R programs through a Society has several advantages and some of these include the following.

- (a) Bring flexibility in planning and implementation of R&R programs. Resettlement programs need to be designed in accordance with the local conditions – scarcity of land, high population density, extensive rural poverty, etc.;
- (b) Attract required technical expertise including from outside the government and thus reduce pressure on the existing government machinery;
- (c) Develop an NGO/CBO partnership to work with the affected communities;
- (d) Promote private-public partnership in the implementation of R&R programs, particularly in projects in private sector;
- (e) Mobilize resources, in addition to regular budgetary allocation by the State, required to implement R&R programs;
- (f) Put in place a suitable financial management structure to meet the challenges of long term process of planning and implementation of R&R activities. This should essentially provide flexibility in terms of financial operations to ensure that funds are available through out the year;
- (g) Reduce fiduciary risks through increased transparency and accountability;
- (h) Plan and implement effective information, education and communication strategies; and
- (i) Ensure improved monitoring and tracking mechanisms and build partnership for civil society oversight and feedback.

5. In view of the situation as above, Commissioner R&R has recommended for creation of an R&R Society, with a flexible organizational structure, operational procedures and financial autonomy essential for smooth planning and implementation of the R&R component of development projects. In the process of functioning, the society could help develop a pool of human resources within the state with expertise in working with the affected communities and helping them in their R&R process.

6. Government after careful consideration of the proposal, hereby permit the Commissioner (R&R) for setting up of an R&R Society, as an executing agency which would work under the over all control of the state level R&R Commissioner with a mandate as spelt out above.

7. The Commissioner R&R is directed to initiate and take necessary action accordingly.

8. This order issues with the concurrence of Finance (W&P) Department vide their U.O.No.3606/F8/A1/2008-1, dated: 03.08.2008.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH

SANJAY JAJU,
EX-OFFICIO SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT &
COMMISSIONER (R&R)

To
The Commissioner (R&R) and Ex-Officio Secretary to Government,
Irrigation & C.A.D.Department, 7th Floor, Buddha Bhavan,
Ranigunj, Secunderabad.

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Additional Secretary to (LR), G.O.I, Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development, 'G' Wing, NBO Building, Nirman Bhavan, New Delhi
Sri Mohd Hasan, the Senior Social Development Specialist, the World Bank, GOI, New Delhi

The Lead Specialist, World Bank, New Delhi, 70, Lodi Estate, New Delhi

The Prl. Secretary to Government, YAT & C Department

The Joint Secretary, GOI, Ministry of Rural Development,
Department of Land Resources, New Delhi.

P.S. to Prl. Secretary to Govt. I&CAD Department.

P.S. to Secretary to Government (SB)

P.S. to Secretary to Government (RRM)

P.S. to Secretary to Govt. (AD).

SF/SC

// FORWARDED :: BY ORDER //

SECTION OFFICER